

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated July 2, 2004, claims 9-10 have been canceled and claims 1, 3 and 16 have been amended. Claims 1-8 and 11-17 are in the case. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Ryzin (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,689). Also, the Office Action rejected claims 3-9 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Ryzin (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,689) in view of Arnold et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,255,387).

The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections based on the arguments below and the amendments to the claims 1, 3 and 16.

In particular, the Applicants contend that the Van Ryzin reference does not disclose all of the elements of the Applicants' claimed invention. In addition, the Applicants submit that the Van Ryzin reference, taken alone or in combination with the Arnold reference, do not disclose all of the elements of the Applicants' claimed invention.

However, the Examiner stated that claim 10 was allowable. As such, although the Applicants contend that the claims are allowable before the present amendment, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this case, the Applicants have added the limitations of allowed claim 10 into independent claims 1, 3 and 16. Hence, the Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 3 and 16 are allowable.

Consequently, the rejections are moot. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

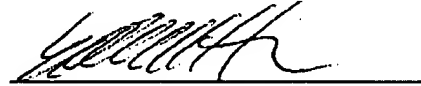
With regard to the dependent claims, since they depend from the above-argued respective independent claims, they are therefore patentable on at least the same basis. (MPEP § 2143.03).

In view of the arguments and amendments set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejected claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding claim rejections and to pass this application to issue. Additionally, in an effort to expedite and

Serial No.: 09/726.275
Attorney Docket No.: AUS9-2000-0326-US1

further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicants kindly invite the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at **(818) 885-1575**.

Respectfully submitted,
Dated: October 1, 2004



Edmond A. DeFrank
Reg. No. 37,814
Attorney for Applicant